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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/757,425	01/15/2004	Jun Yamada	2018-829	3363
23117	7590	01/25/2005		
NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC 1100 N GLEBE ROAD 8TH FLOOR ARLINGTON, VA 22201-4714			EXAMINER HOANG, JOHNNY H	
			ART UNIT 3747	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 01/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/757,425	YAMADA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Johnny H. Hoang	3747	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 January 2004.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 5-11 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,2 and 4 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 15 January 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01/15/2004.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Inventorship

1. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim Objections

2. Claims 2, and 3 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 2, line 2; the word "ca lculates" must be changed to --calculates--.

In claim 3, line 2; the word "calcula tes" must be changed to --calculates--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-2, and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bryant et al (US 5,559,285).

Regarding claim 1, the reference of Bryant et al discloses the fuzzy logic method for detecting misfires in the engine including the following subject matters: a misfire detector of an internal combustion engine (70) utilizing a crankshaft (10) capable of rotating at different rotation periods (col. 3, lines 13-30), the detector comprising:

a map for storing misfire determination values as a basis for determining engine misfiring, each value associated with one of the rotation periods (col. 3, lines 31-53; col. 4, lines 11-23; and col. 6, line 35 through col. 7, line 38);

means for computing an engine speed fluctuation quantity, according to engine speed, for a predetermined period of time (col. 4, line 24 through col. 5, line 23); and

means for detecting a misfire according to the stored misfire determination values and the calculated engine speed fluctuation quantity (col. 5, line 24 though col. 6, line18).

Regarding claims 2, and 4, as rejected in claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claim 3 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. Claims 5-11 are allowed. The prior art fails to disclose or render obvious the claimed combination including the steps of: means for detecting rotational fluctuation values of the engine; means for learning variation values of the rotational fluctuation values detected by the rotational fluctuation detecting means; means for determining from the variation values learned by the learning means and the rotational fluctuation value detected by the rotational fluctuation detecting means to determine whether the engine is misfiring; a random access memory (RAM) for storing the learned value; and a rewritable nonvolatile memory for storing the learned value,

wherein the learned value stored in the RAM is rewritten every time the learning means computes a new learned value; and wherein the learned memory is rewritten only value stored in the on a predetermined nonvolatile condition.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Frelund et al (US 6,598,589 B2), Bryant et al (US 5,794,171) and Vincent et al (US 5,735,246).

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Johnny H. Hoang whose telephone number is (571) 272-4843. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday (7:00Am-5: 30Pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Henry Yuen can be reached on (571) 272-4856.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JHH
January 18, 2005

Johnny H. Hoang
Examiner
Art Unit 3747

Tony M. Argenbright
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